

HOUSE BILL 2210

By Mumpower

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70,  
Chapter 5, relative to the Tennessee Wildlife  
Resources Agency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-5-101, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

( )

(1) Subject to existing rights, lands managed by the wildlife resources agency shall be open to access and use for hunting except as limited by the agency for reasons of public safety, fish or wildlife management, or homeland security or as otherwise limited by law.

(2) The agency, pursuant to its right to exercise authority in accordance with state law, shall exercise its authority, consistent with subdivision (a)(1) in a manner that supports, promotes, and enhances hunting opportunities to the extent authorized by such law.

(3) Agency land management decisions and actions, including decisions made by private owners to close hunting land managed by the agency, shall not result in any net loss of habitat land acreage available for hunting opportunities on wildlife management areas that exists on the effective date of this act. The agency shall expeditiously find replacement acreage for hunting to compensate for closures of any existing hunting land. Replacement lands shall, to the greatest extent possible, be located within the same wildlife resources agency

region and shall be consistent with the hunting discipline that the agency allowed on the closed land.

(4) Any watershed district or state agency, other than the wildlife resources agency, that owns or manages lands shall assist and coordinate and cooperate with the wildlife resources agency to allow hunting on such lands if such lands are determined by the wildlife resources agency to be suitable for hunting. To ensure no net loss of land acreage available for hunting, watershed districts and state agencies shall cooperate with the wildlife resources agency to open new, additional hunting lands to replace lost hunting acreage. However, lands officially designated as units within the state park system may not be considered for replacement hunting lands.

(5) Prior to January 1, 2008, and each year thereafter, the agency shall submit to the chairman of the house conservation and environment committee and the chairman of the senate environment, conservation and tourism committee a written report containing:

(A) The acreage managed by the agency that has been closed to recreational hunting and fishing during the previous fiscal year and the reasons for such closures; and

(B) The acreage managed by the agency that was opened to recreational hunting and fishing to compensate for the acreage that was closed during the previous fiscal year.

(6) Prior to January 1, 2008, and each year thereafter, any watershed district or state agency, other than the wildlife resources agency, that owns or manages lands shall submit to the executive director of the wildlife resources agency, the chairman of the house conservation and environment committee and

the chairman of the senate environment, conservation and tourism committee a written report containing:

(A) A list of properties that were open for hunting during the previous fiscal year;

(B) A list of properties that were not open for hunting during the previous fiscal year; and

(C) The acreage for each property and the county where each property is located, except for right-of-way lands and parcels under fifty (50) acres.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-5-101, is amended by deleting subsection (c) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(c) A violation of subsection (b) is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.